IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application:

1.   (Currently amended) A method for converting a physical document into an electronic document comprising:

inserting one or more formatting commands into an initial electronic document;

converting said initial electronic document into a physical document with said inserted formatting commands;

scanning said physical document using a scanner to produce an second electronic document wherein said scanner is configured to interpret said formatting commands and to transform said physical document into said second electronic document in accordance with said formatting commands.

2.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are fonts.

3.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are font sizes.

4.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are alignment tags.

5.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are tabs.

6.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are margins.

7.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are table definitions.

8.   (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said formatting commands are picture definitions.

9.   (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of converting further comprises:

placing one or more bar codes into said physical document wherein said bar codes are viewable representations of said formatting commands.

10.   (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising:

a computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein configured to convert a physical document into an electronic document, said computer program product comprising:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to insert one or more formatting commands into an initial electronic document;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to convert said initial electronic document into a physical document which includes said inserted formatting commands;

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to scan said physical document using a scanner to produce an second electronic document wherein said scanner is configured to interpret said formatting commands and wherein said interpreted formatting commands are used to transform said physical document into said second electronic document.

11.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are fonts.

12.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are font sizes.

13.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are alignment tags.

14.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are tabs.

15.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are margins.

16.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are table definitions.

17.   (Original)   The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said formatting commands are picture definitions.

18.   (Currently amended) The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein said computer readable code configured to cause a computer to convert further comprises:

computer readable code configured to cause a computer to place one or more bar codes into said physical document wherein said bar codes are physical representations of said formatting commands.

19.　(New)　The method of Claim 1 wherein said step of converting further comprises printing said formatting commands into said physical document.

20.　(New)　The method of Claim 19 wherein said formatting commands are printed on a side of said physical document and contains information that defines various format attributes of said physical document.